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NEWS RELEASE

April 14, 1998

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COMMUNITY CLEANUP SLATED FOR SATURDAY, APRIL 18

MISSOULA --

The University of Montana and Missoula communities are teaming up again this year to give the city its annual spring cleaning Saturday, April 18.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed for the communitywide cleanup from 9 a.m. to noon as part of the fourth annual "Give Missoula A Clean Start -- A Community Celebration." Organizers have identified 27 sites on the UM campus and throughout the city for cleaning, including Greenough Park, Blue Mountain, Pattee Canyon, downtown Missoula, and popular hiking trails on Mount Sentinel and along the Clark Fork River.

Volunteers of all ages are needed to pick up litter, pull weeds, spade gardens and repair trails. Register to volunteer in advance by calling 243-2586 or just show up at one of two registration sites at 8:30 a.m. for work assignments. Registration sites are at Caras Park and at the base of the M Trail on the UM campus. Workers are asked to bring their own water, cups and gloves.

A community celebration at Caras Park from 1 to 3 p.m. will feature speakers, music, environmental education booths, activities and food. Missoula Region Americorps and Montana Conservation Corps members will give free demonstrations for the public throughout the day on how to build compost bins and flower boxes.

Speakers at the celebration will include Kim Kuethe, owner of Mammyth Bakery; Mayor Mike Kadas; Vicki Watson, UM professor of environmental studies; and Mike Bader of the Alliance for the Wild Rockies. John Engen of the Missoulain will serve as master of ceremonies.

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This year's cleanup effort also will include a weeklong recycling drive. Take recyclables to any BFI collection site between April 15 and 22; a portion of the proceeds will go to the Clean Start project.

The Missoulian will join citywide recycling efforts the day of the organized cleanup, opening bins on its back lot and providing others at Tidyman's and the Spruce Street Recycling Center for collecting newspapers and aluminum cans. Proceeds from that day's drive will buy trees for Missoula city parks.

Also new this year is a project that matches volunteers with elderly and disabled local residents who need assistance with yard work. About 50 volunteers from Volunteer Montana and RSVP's Senior Environment Corps Home Maintenance and Safety Program will rake lawns and dig in gardens throughout the city.

Clean Start pulls together several important cleanup days in Missoula -- Earth Day, UM's M Trail Day and Aber Day, a UM tradition started by Professor William "Daddy" Aber on April 16, 1915, as the day set aside to spruce up campus.

For the past four years, UM has teamed up with volunteers organizations to coordinate the event. This year's co-sponsors are KMSO-FM, the Missoulian, Montana Conservation Corps, Americorps and UM's Volunteer Action Services, the President's Office and University Relations.

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